



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Legislation Strengthening Protections for Wisconsin National Guard and Army Reserve Students Clears Assembly**

(Madison) – Yesterday, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed legislation enhancing protections for Wisconsin National Guard and Wisconsin Army Reserve students. The legislation, Assembly Bill 769, eliminates the current requirement that orders to active duty must be for 30 days or more before a student is entitled to relief, expands the current option some students have to place a class on hold or obtain a tuition refund if they are called to active duty while taking classes, and also ensures that if a student is required to leave school because they are called to active duty, they are guaranteed re-enrollment in future classes.

Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R - Tomah), co-sponsored the legislation, supported it's passage as Vice Chair of the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, and supported it's passage during the floor vote yesterday afternoon.

"This is impactful, strongly bi-partisan legislation that helps our Wisconsin National Guard and Army Reserve members. A number of these individuals are enrolled in University of Wisconsin institutions, UW Colleges, our State Technical College system, private colleges and universities and apprenticeship programs across the state.

As brought up a Wisconsin National Guard officer in committee, these enhanced protections will be especially valuable to ease the strain placed on our military members when they are called up to duty in times of National Disaster, as experienced recently during Hurricane Irma. As a legislature, we should strive to do whatever we can to support our student service members and I was proud to support this legislation."

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.*